

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
February 19, 2013

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Ronald G. Sipkema, H. Dan Stalbaum, Gerrit H. DeVries, Rein O. Bontreger, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan and Andrew Andree. Also present was the Auditor of Jasper County, Kimberly K. Grow and Deputy Auditor, Donya G. Jordan. Mr. Sipkema called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Price.

MINUTES: Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 22, 2013 as submitted. Mr. Bontreger seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION /COUNTY GENERAL FUND/REASSESSMENT BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund was \$500.00. This amount is needed to cover the Level III bonus for Assessor Dawn Hoffman's Level III Certification Bonus. Mr. Price made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-02A** as advertised. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION /COUNTY GENERAL/CIRCUIT COURT BUDGET: Judge Potter requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$22,500.00 for law books. Mr. Price made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-02B** as advertised. Mr. Stalbaum seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION /REASSESSMENT FUND/ASSESSOR'S BUDGET: Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-02C** in the amount of \$250.00 to cover the Level III Certification Bonus for one of the deputy assessors. Mr. Price seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION /COUNTY CREDIT FUND/TECHNOLOGY BUDGET: Sharon Blasky had request at the January meeting funding for a new Risograph Machine. She requested \$5,000.00 to replace the old machine which no longer works. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve this request within **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-02D**. Mr. Stalbaum seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS / PROJECT INCOME: Community Corrections Director Mr. Wakeland requested \$10,000.00 for vehicle supplies. This amount was cut from his request for his 2013 budget. Mr. Price made a motion to approve this request within **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-02E**. Mr. Stalbaum seconded and this motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION / INTER-FUND LOAN: Mrs. Jordan explained that there is not enough money within the ambulance fund at the current time to pay the contractual amounts to Jasper County's four ambulance providers. This resolution permits a loan from the Rainy Day Fund in the sum of \$300,000.00 to the Ambulance Fund. The distribution of taxes to County Funds is planned for the estimated dates of May 10 and November 10 and the Ambulance Fund will be able to repay the loan by December 31, 2013. The council held a discussion concerning requesting the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance to place the tax rate a little higher in order to create a cushion within this fund even though the County General Fund rate will have to be reduced in order to do this. This will not be an overnight fix. Mr. Price made a motion to approve **RESOLUTION NO. 02-19-2013(RES)**. Mr. Bontreger seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

INMATE COMMISSARY FUND: Sheriff Risner appeared before the council to discuss the department's semi annual audit report for the commissary fund. He stated the report is self explanatory. The expenditures amounted to \$23,000.00 and consisted of purchasing supplies and equipment and paid for training. Indiana State House Bill 1009 was submitted to pass a law to take the commissary away from the sheriff department and pass it on to the county governments but this bill was defeated.

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DRUG INTERDICTION MONEY: The sheriff was asked about his drug interdiction money. He explained they have spent approximately \$400,000.00 on body armor and updated some of their fleet vehicles. He also stated he would be paying approximately \$600,000.00 over the next three years on utilities.

JAIL UPDATE: Councilman Price asked for an update concerning the heating and cooling issues at the jail. Sheriff Risner explained the commissioners contracted with Emcor, a company that makes recommendations on what the county can do to fix the problems and guarantee the savings on the utility bills. If the savings fall below their guaranteed amount then the company will reimburse the county the difference.

COUNTY CORONER'S MORGUE REQUEST: Jasper County Coroner Andy Boersma was present to submit a bid from Greg Smith of MC2 for a 2,100 square foot new addition and 900 square feet remodel of a portion of the existing Community Corrections building. The proposed cost will be an amount between \$340,000.00 to \$375,000.00 for this project and equipment of the building would be an estimated cost between \$25,000.00 and \$35,000.00. It was decided the committee which consisted of Commissioner Kendell Culp, Council President Ron Sipkema, Council Vice President Dan Stalbaum, Community Corrections Director Bill Wakeland and Coroner Boersma meet with Greg Smith of MC2 and discuss this project.

ABATEMENT DISCUSSION: There was a lengthy discussion concerning granting abatements with the consensus being there needs to be guidelines set for these abatement requests even though each request is unique in its own way. The county also needs an updated packet to hand out to companies requesting these abatements. It was decided to have Attorney Monfort and Kevin Kelly work on updating this information with the possibility of contracting with a firm who will do the policy.

JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY: The commissioners requested the council to pass an ordinance to create a five member board for the Jasper County Airport Authority. Mr. Price made a motion for Attorney Monfort to write an ordinance for this and Mr. DeVries seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Mathis, a resident of Jasper County requested that the minutes be posted on the county's website and was told they would be after being approved by the council.

There being no further business, Mr. Bontreger made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ronald G. Sipkema, President

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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